



In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicant: Lawrence Howell Sawyer et al. Docket No.: 17398
Serial No.: 10/720,299 Group No.: 1771
Confirmation No.: 4119 Examiner: Unknown
Filed: November 24, 2003
For: INTEGRALLY FORMED ABSORBENT MATERIALS, PRODUCTS
INCORPORATING SAME, AND METHODS OF MAKING SAME

Information Disclosure Statement Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) Before First Office Action or Within Three Months of Filing Date

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97 et seq., Applicants, through and by their attorneys, hereby wish to direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the modified PTO 1449 Form. A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and of each non-patent document listed on the form is also presented herewith for the Examiner's review and convenience. Cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are not included in accordance with the U.S. Patent Office waiver of the requirement under 37 C.F.R. 1.98 (a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and for all international applications that have entered the national stage under 35 USC 371 after June 30, 2003.

Applicants also wish to bring the following commonly-assigned pending patent application to the attention of the Examiner:

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/037,450 filed December 20, 2001, by Ricky A. Adams et al. for "COMPOSITE FLUID DISTRIBUTION AND FLUID RETENTION LAYER HAVING MACHINE DIRECTION ZONES AND Z-DIRECTION GRADIENTS FOR PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS." (15860)

This application is not listed on the accompanying PTO Form 1449; however, a copy of this application is provided herewith.

By inclusion of any given document in this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants in no way admit that such document is effective as prior art against the above-identified application under either 35 U.S.C. 102 or 35 U.S.C. 103.

Additionally, submission of any document is not to be taken as an admission of the materiality of the document to the prosecution of the present application.

The Examiner is requested to review each cited document and personally determine its prior art status.

Applicants recommend that the Examiner conduct an independent search for any and all available material prior art and independently review the results of such search and the documents cited within this Statement.

Applicants request the Examiner, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, to indicate and make of record receipt and review of all of these documents by initialing the appropriate box in the accompanying PTO-1449. Applicants request that the undersigned receive a copy of the initialed PTO-1449.

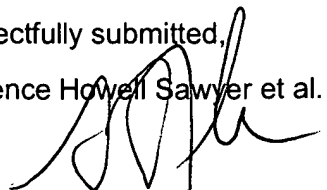
If the Examiner refuses to consider any or all of the herein submitted materials because it is the Examiner's opinion that this Information Disclosure Statement is not in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner notify the undersigned, in writing, as to the basis of such opinion.

Please charge any prosecutorial fees which are due to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875.

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The undersigned may be reached at: 770-587-8646.

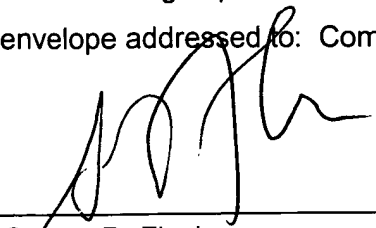
Respectfully submitted,
Lawrence Howell Sawyer et al.

By: 
Steven D. Flack

Registration No.: 40,608

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Steven D. Flack, hereby certify that on 3/25/04 this document and above-referenced enclosures is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By: 
Steven D. Flack

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List of Patents and Publications for Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant(s): Lawrence H. Sawyer et al.
 Serial No.: 10/720,299
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with your next communication.

Examiner:

Date Considered:

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